



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 9, 2007

H.R. 249

A bill to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 7, 2007

H.R. 249 would prohibit the commercial sale of wild horses and burros by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Currently, BLM administers a program to protect, manage, and control wild free-roaming horses and burros. As part of that program, BLM sells wild horses and burros that are over 10 years of age for commercial purposes for about \$10 per animal if the animals have not been successfully adopted in three auctions. If the animals are not adopted and BLM cannot sell the animals, it provides long-term care for them.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 249 would not have a substantial effect on the federal budget. BLM would lose minimal proceeds from the sale of the animals (which are classified as discretionary offsetting collections), and also would incur additional costs for providing long-term care for some animals. Based on information from BLM about the number of animals sold and the cost to care for them, CBO estimates that the resulting net changes in discretionary spending under H.R. 249 would not exceed \$500,000 annually, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 249 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 249 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Tyler Kruzich. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.